



MPSCS Newsletter

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Join the MPSCS conversation

www.facebook.com/thempscs

www.twitter.com/mpscs

www.youtube.com/thempscs

We invite you to take our MPSCS Website Feedback and User Survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DT68MCP>

or find a link on the MPSCS Website.

MPSCS ASSISTS MICHIGAN STATE POLICE WITH HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

In Early November, troopers were requested to be deployed to aid in disaster relief in the state of New Jersey. Hurricane Sandy, which made landfall in Atlantic City, New Jersey in late October, caused massive amounts of damage, flooding, and power outages that hindered critical communication demands and required outside assistance.

MPSCS's Radio Tech Dennis Fountain was requested by Michigan State Police to aid in two-way radio communication to assist in Hurricane Sandy relief in New Jersey.

be used in conjunction with their analog system. Fountain and the MSP crew arrived at an old Army barracks at Ft. Dix, where they stayed for the duration of the trip, by 9pm on November 4th. Fountain worked well into the night and was up early the next morning to program mobile radios. Two templates had already been prepared by NJSP but more were needed to accommodate the four models of radios that were used. The next day, Fountain accompanied the MSP Lieutenant to his

temporary command post and was able to install a base radio there.

Many MPSCS Radio Techs and other personnel are prepared to handle all-hazards communications procedures and are able to assist First Responders in operations relating to radio communications. Fountain said that he "was overwhelmed with the outpouring of thanks and gratification from the people of New Jersey for us being there to help."



MPSCS Tech Dennis Fountain lines up with the Michigan State Police before deploying with Hurricane Sandy rescue efforts. Photo courtesy of Michigan State Police.



Photo courtesy of Michigan State Police.

In preparation for the departure, Dennis made correspondence to New Jersey State Police to see if MPSCS radios would be compatible with their communication system. It turned out that New Jersey was operating on two state-wide Motorola Systems and MPSCS radios were able to



Photo courtesy of Dennis Fountain.



Words From Our Director: Brad Stoddard

The Future of Public Safety Communications

It's a new year and as the world never came to an end, many agencies were abuzz with last minute narrowbanding activities or filing requests for waivers, along with the rest of the work that comes with interoperability that keeps us swamped.

As I plan accordingly for the list of activities that I am faced with this year, I am drawn towards the future of public safety communications. We continue to witness the growing complexities of public safety communications as the lines begin to blur between the foundational components of NextGen 911 and that of Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN)/FirstNet.

I am hopeful that my newly acquired Delorean with the "flux capacitor" feature arrives in time to go 'back in time'. To ensure the skills needed to build applications for the network and to support the framework of the network are all mandatory classes for graduates, and that fiscal responsibility is a top priority.

All humor aside, public safety and the tech savvy developers and engineers are preparing to evolve technology from one edge of the nation to the other. Whether the focus is on new applications or those

currently in place, a level of efficiency will be expected. It takes people to use the technology and know what to do with it to satisfy today's expectation of instant results.

This leads to the other necessity of advancing technology; finances to both purchase technology and hire as well as retain knowledgeable staff. Across the entire public safety sector



Bradley Stoddard
MPSCS Director

"It is my hope that the 'fiscal cliffs', 'debt ceilings' and other yet to be used terms describing the financial crisis facing the nation don't sideline an opportunity for dramatic positive change."

emergency medical services (EMS), fire, and law have all seen dramatic cuts in personnel and budget. If cities, states, and tribes are having difficulty funding personnel, how might they have appropriate funds to leverage the new direction in public safety data communications?

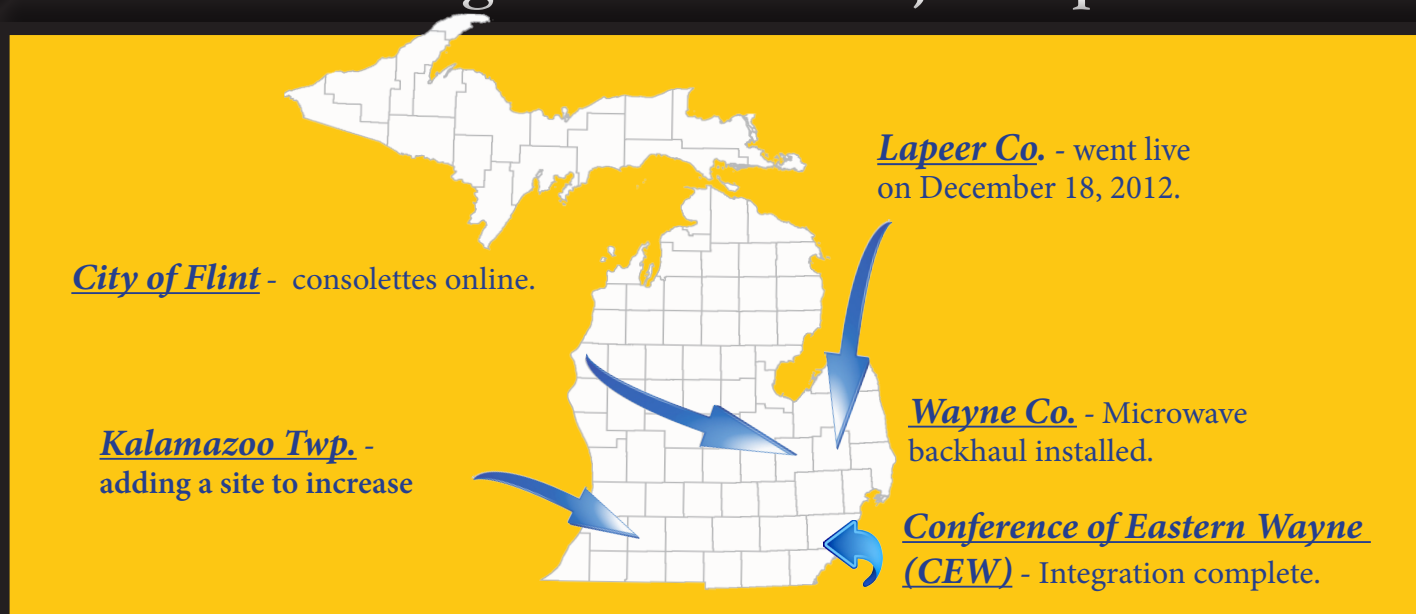
I don't want my thoughts to be taken out of context as I am a strong supporter of advancing technology and a nationwide public safety broadband network, but have we missed a fundamental question of how we can get there financially. I'm suggesting that the focus should be on the ancillary items that will comprise the end users tool belt - the devices, the applications, the training, the revolving door of upgrade cycles and any other unknowns.

During these competing times of priorities with the limited funds available for public safety, I wish that a device such as the "flux capacitor" actually existed to ease my mind of the unknowns that could jeopardize the success of the public safety broadband network. It is my hope that the 'fiscal cliffs', 'debt ceilings' and other yet to be used terms describing the financial crisis facing the nation don't sideline an opportunity for dramatic positive change.





Local Integrations and Project Updates



800 MHz Rebanding Update

The Rebanding project took a break over the holidays after rebanding 19,631 radios since the kickoff on August 22, 2012. Rebanding has generally been completed for agencies in 34 counties. These include most of the counties south of M-20 including the Saginaw/Midland/Bay City region. The project started up again on January 7th. The major concentration in the coming months through March will be the second rebanding region of Detroit metropolitan area including Macomb, Wayne, Monroe and Washtenaw counties.

The project continues to follow the same protocol to identify each agency's rebanding contact person. Once the contact is confirmed, e-mails are sent with information on the purpose of rebanding, the dates, locations, what to bring, and what will take place at the rebanding site. The e-mail notices are sent 30 days prior to an agency's rebanding date, with further reminders at fourteen and seven days prior to their scheduled date. The procedure and forms by which to claim the \$50 Reward for each rebanded radio are also provided. Once all of an agency's radios are rebanded, MPSCS will process their \$50 reward application and

submit it to Sprint for direct payment to the agency.

Reviewing the results from the first four months, we show that about 11% of the radios are still not rebanded in the counties that have been "completed". All radios on the MPSCS network must be rebanded. Agencies that still have radios to be rebanded after their scheduled dates can take them to sites in upcoming counties to have them rebanded there. The serial numbers of the remaining radios are sent to the agencies via two separate e-mails along with the location and dates of future rebanding sites in other counties. The agencies are responsible for transporting their own radios to those future rebanding sites.



The 800 MHz Rebanding web site contains the location and dates for rebanding efforts in upcoming counties. It can be accessed at: <http://www.michigan.gov/MPSCS> then select the 800 MHz Rebanding Project tab on the left side navigation of the menu column. Please also feel free to call 517-336-6652 to discuss rebanding questions or 517-333-4133 with questions regarding the \$50.00 reward or associated paperwork.



Engineering Corner: Satellite Trailer

In the spring of 2012, MPSCS acquired a pCom® satellite communications trailer and two portable satellite communication systems from Squire Tech Solutions. The trailer and portable systems are used to provide internet access, telephone, and fax communications, to public safety personnel in the field, through a satellite link. The primary purpose of acquiring the trailer and portable systems is for deployment for various public safety agencies during disaster or public safety events. Many agencies have solutions for connecting to the internet in the field through the cellular system, such as air cards or modems. This however, only works where there is cellular coverage and the cellular system is not overloaded. During disaster situations cellular coverage may not be reliable or even exist, this is where the portable systems come in to provide reliable communication.

The systems were purchased through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant.



This grant, administered through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, was designed to provide funding for public safety

agencies to improve their communication systems with the goal of improving interoperable communications between agencies. The current service plan is for internet access only. Telephone and fax services can be added to the plan if an agency requires them. The trailer and portable systems are comprised of a satellite

dish, equipment that operates the dish, as well as equipment that provides wired and wireless internet, telephone, and fax services. The trailer also includes a diesel generator, climate control for the electronic equipment compartment and a mast that can be used to mount communications antennas and any other equipment. The trailer is designed to be operated in diverse weather conditions as a standalone system. The portable systems are lightweight and easily moveable, but do require an external power supply such as a generator or an AC outlet. Both the trailer and portable systems can be fully deployed quickly and easily with the push of a few buttons.

The pCom® satellite communications trailer has already proven useful to MSP. The deployed satellite was used to mount cameras during the recent search for the I-96 shooter, though the internet connection was not needed. Future intended uses could also include providing internet connection for MSP's mobile command vehicles or in cases of forest fires and other natural disasters in areas without cellular coverage.



The MPSCS would like to congratulate Keith Bradshaw who was designated Michigan APCO Radio Technician of the Year in 2012.



Missouri State Highway Patrol visit MPSCS



In December 2012, eleven members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol visited the MPSCS to engage with staff about the Michigan system. Questions were asked about operations, maintenance, procedures, system design, dependability, metrics and security issues.

The State Highway Patrol was given a tour of the Network Communications Center (NCC) to view the Genesis program in operation. They also visited the Engineering Lab and were able to ask individual member questions about their area.



Members of the Missouri State Patrol visit the NCC and ask questions about the system.

The MPSCS would like to thank the Missouri State Highway Patrol for taking the time to visit with us.



DTMB Director John Nixon tours MPSCS

MPSCS welcomed DTMB and State Budget Director John Nixon as he toured the facility at 4000 Collins Rd. on October 19th, 2012. MPSCS Director Brad Stoddard and several managers including Randy Williams, Pat Kenealy, Mark Sandberg, Toney Casey, and John Warner led Mr. Nixon, and his executive staff Sharon Ellis, Director of Operations, Phillip Jeffery, Chief Deputy, David Behen CIO, and Chris Harkins, Legislative Liaison, on a walkthrough of our building and operations, including a trip through the Network Communications Center and our onsite equipment testing lab.



MPSCS staff accompanied Mr. Nixon and DTMB staff members Phil Jeffery and Chris Harkins to visit tower



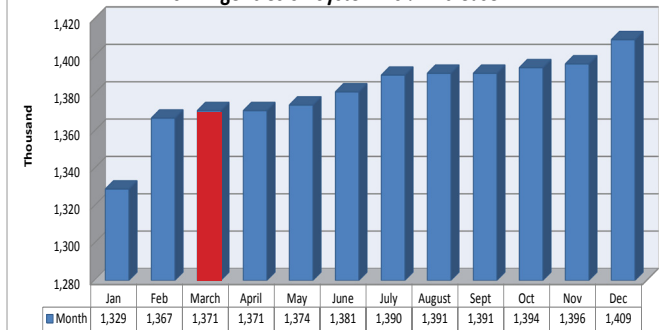
site 1102 in Eaton County. The three DTMB executives were able to ride along in a Michigan State Trooper car with MSP Trooper Dwight Denning, MSP Motor Carrier Officer Brian Martin, and DNR Conservation Officer Brian Fish. While at the tower site the group was able to get a closer look at MPSCS infrastructure and system technology.

Mr. Nixon commented that “touring a couple of the Michigan’s Public Safety Communication System facilities gave me the opportunity to meet the great team we have and gain a full understanding of the importance of their work. I’m glad I was able to take this tour and see firsthand the valuable services they provide our customers.”

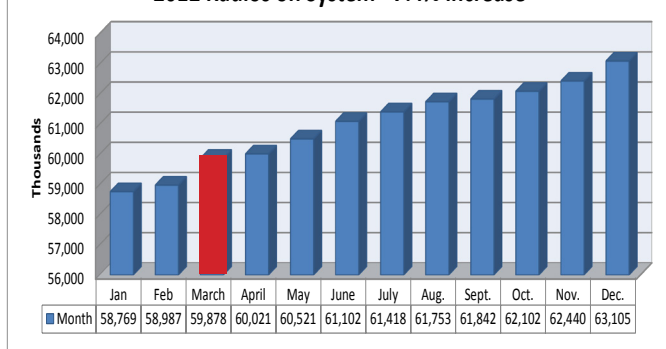


2012 BY THE NUMBERS

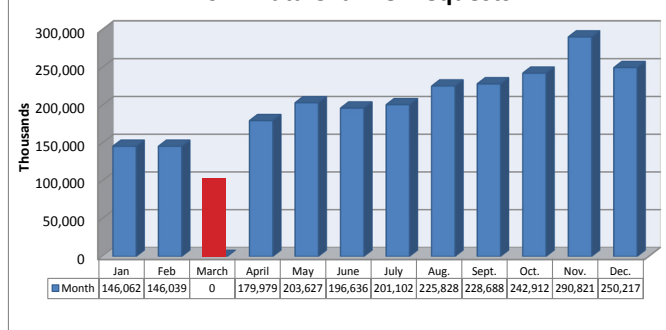
2012 Agencies on System - 6 % increase



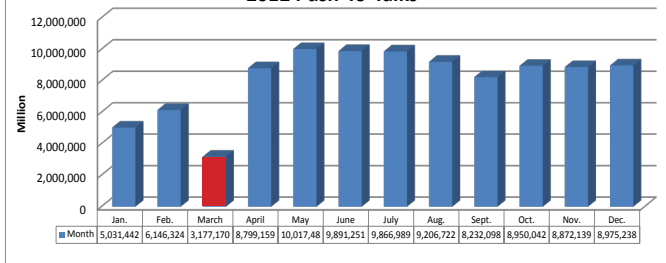
2012 Radios on System - 7.4% increase



2012 Data Channel Requests



2012 Push-To-Talks



2002

2012

8,000 mobile and portable radios

63,105 mobile and portable radios

4 Master sites

7 Master sites

180 tower sites

255 tower sites (75 sites are locally owned but integrated into the MPSCS)

6 Dispatch Centers

47 Dispatch Centers

38 console positions

201 console positions

2 million/month Push-To-Talks (PTT)

9 million/month Push-To-Talks (PTT)

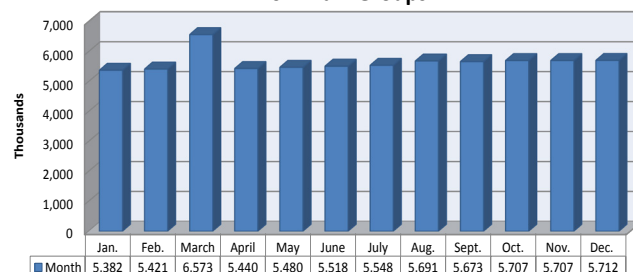
152 agencies

1409 agencies

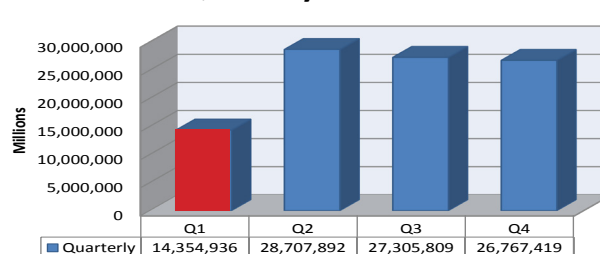
440 mobile computers

1068 mobile computers

2012 Talk Groups



2012 Quarterly Push-To-Talks



■ = March counts incomplete due to 7.11 system upgrade.

For more metrics and a MPSCS Timeline, go to our Dashboard on the MPSCS website at www.michigan.gov/mpscs.



MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

MPSCS USER GROUP MEETINGS

We will be coming back around in 2013.

**Let us know if you are interested in hosting or attending a
MPSCS User Group Meeting.**

We will bring Rebanding Updates to you, and hear your feedback.

"User Group Meetings give us a chance to hear direct from the customer how we can better the public safety communication services we provide."

*- Mark Sandberg,
Engineering Manager,
Research and Development*



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Check out our website
and let us know what you
would like to see.
www.michigan.gov/mpscs

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